

FOOD TRUCKS & CARTS

A Guide Through the Permitting process



STEP ONE

Decide on Type of Food You Will be Offering

- ◆ Unpackaged, perishable foods (e.g., catering, soft-serve or scoop ice cream, cappuccino, cut melon).
- ◆ Packaged, perishable foods (e.g., grocery, whole fish and aquatic invertebrates, ice cream).
- ◆ Unpackaged, non-perishable food (e.g., pre-made churro and pretzel, coffee, shaved ice).
- ◆ Packaged, non-perishable foods (e.g., whole fruits, chips, bottled sodas, candies).

STEP TWO

Find the Right Food Truck or Cart

Before purchasing:

- ◆ Check with Long Beach Business Licensing for requirements to operate a food truck or cart.
- ◆ Check with the Planning Bureau to make sure your proposed operation location(s) are allowed.
- ◆ Check with Environmental Health Bureau to become familiar with plan check and inspection process.



STEP THREE

Building, Purchasing or Leasing a Food Truck or Cart

- ◆ Check with reputable food truck/trailer or cart manufacturers for construction.
- ◆ Make sure the truck/cart meets mobile food facility requirement per the California Retail Food Code. Refer to Mobile Food Facility guidelines on longbeach.gov/eh.
- ◆ Submit plans for new or used carts and trucks that sell unpackaged food. Plans can be submitted to Development Services. longbeach.gov/lbds/building/project-submittal/
- ◆ Carts and trucks with no electrical and plumbing that sell only prepackaged and non-perishable foods are not required to submit plans.

STEP FOUR

Inspection and Permitting

Make sure you obtain plan check approval prior to building, purchasing or leasing a truck or cart.

- ◆ Make an appointment for an inspection of the food cart/truck.
- ◆ Submit signed letter from a licensed commissary where truck or cart will be stored and serviced.
- ◆ Provide a copy of a restroom use agreement.
- ◆ Show proof of Food Manager Certification (unpackaged food operators).
- ◆ Complete Health Permit Application.

Sidewalk Vending as allowed by Senate Bill 946 still requires compliance with the California Retail Food Code. A Health Permit must be obtained before beginning any food vending operation.



We are here to help

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